THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Only agencies owned by Ex-servicemen and sponsored by Director General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence are offered transport contracts. However, in view of certain complaints received about the operation of such agencies, CIL Board has constituted a High level Committee to review engagement of Ex-servicemen Transport agencies.

EU New Barriers on Indian Rice against WTO Norms

6603. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :
SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that European Union has imposed anti-dumping duties on Indian rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely impact on our export of rice to the European Union during this year and the coming years;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the European Union;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Handloom and Handicrafts Items

6604. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the export of handloom and handicraft items for the last three years and the extent to which the target has been achieved;

(b) the quantum of foreign exchange earned thereby during the said period;

(c) the target set for the export of the said items during 1997-98 and the quantum of foreign exchange likely to be earned there from;

(d) whether the Government propose to export these items, statewise; and

(e) if so, the action taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The targets fixed for the exports of cotton handloom textiles and handicraft items for the last three years and the achievements against them have been as follows :

(In Million US dollars)

(Provisional)

	Cotton Handloom Textiles		Handicrafts	
Year	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1994-95	475	479.19	1234	1321.71
1995-96	500	448.54	1542	1497.87
1996-97	470	495.48	1600	1585.53

(c) For 1997-98, targets of US $ 520 million and US $ 1835 million have been fixed for the export of cotton handloom textiles and handicrafts respectively. The targets are likely to be achieved.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Agarbathi Industries

6605. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has delivered an order imposing ban on bamboo felling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether agarbathi industry is on the verge of a closure as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a number of small scale agarbathi units have already been closed due to lack of bamboo slits; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government for revival of these industries ?